



Town of North Andover

Quarterly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2010 - Issue 17

News from the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager's Office

In what has appeared to be a seemingly endless project on the streets surrounding the Town Common, the end is finally in sight. During the past six years, a number of projects have been consecutively coordinated in this area. Gas company and water utility projects were the first to be completed. These were followed by the massive undertaking of placing conduits in the roadways in order to underground the overhead utility wires. A major roadway and sidewalk improvement project overseen by MassHighway came next. This was followed by a drainage project within the Town Common itself. The removal of the final overhead wires and the utility poles on the perimeter of the Town Common will be next.

Work on the underground project in the area has been completed by both National Grid and Comcast. Verizon is

now proceeding with the removing the overhead wires and utility poles surrounding the Town Common. This includes the triangle of Osgood Street, Andover Street, and Mass Avenue. The wires and poles on Osgood Street have already been removed. Those on Andover Street will be done some time in October. Mass Avenue is scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Most, if not all, of the funding for these multiple projects came from federal and state grants, a 2% surcharge on utility bills, and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked to complete this complicated but worthwhile town improvement project.

News from the School Department

Summer Work

Over the summer months, staff continued work in the following areas:

- High School Math Department Curriculum Study
- Elementary ELA committee
- Kindergarten teachers preparing for integrated classrooms
- Differentiated Instruction
- Library Advisory Committee
- School Start Time Committee
- Website Development Committee

Many of these committees will be continuing their work in the fall. In addition, the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Special Education will be reporting to the Superintendent and then to the School Committee in the fall.

Educational Planning

This summer, the first Performance Report was developed by the North Andover Schools. This Performance Report 2010 will be published shortly and available to the media. For individual students in grades 1-6, teachers have now received an individual portfolio for each student containing samples of student work from the year before. Included in this portfolio is a copy of the North Andover Student Achievement Profile [NASAP]. This profile allows teachers to assess individual student academic progress. The NASAP contains grade information and assessment history, including MCAS, *Reading Street* and other uniform assessments. The goal of this portfolio project is to give teachers a greater ability to target differentiated instruction based on individual student needs.

Integrated Kindergarten

The district will be actively pursuing kindergarten accreditation this year through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) which involves meeting stringent standards and guidelines.

While the basic kindergarten program will remain substan-

tially the same, we will be making a few enhancements listed below:

- A full-time paraprofessional will be assigned to all kindergarten classrooms.
- Daily schedules will take into consideration the optimum learning time for 5- and 6-year old children.
- All kindergarten classrooms will be run as full-day programs, with the half-day students integrated into the morning portion of the full-day program.
- This model will allow us to increase the number of kindergarten classrooms and decrease the number of students in each classroom, as well as accommodating students to a greater extent in their neighborhood schools.
- There will be an appropriate balance of academics and socialization experiences.



Fine Arts

Our bands, choruses and wind ensemble are ready for an extraordinary school year. The Scarlet and Black Singers will be going to Carnegie Hall in the spring to perform at the National Youth Choir Festival. We also have a new music room for the instruction of piano. Courses in Dance, AP Music Theory, Directing, Guitar, and many other areas of Fine Arts at the high school have strong enrollments as we begin the year.

Athletics

We will have close to 400 student athletes participating in athletics this fall. Regular season games began the week of September 5. We are very proud to report that Field hockey, cheerleading and boys soccer won league championships last fall.

News from the Division of Public Works

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

In 2009 the Town's Department of Public Works performed an inspection of the conditions for all Town public roads. This did not include private roads or the two state owned roads, Rt. 114 and Rt. 125. The inspection determined road surface ratings, repair methods, and repair costs for each segment of road. The results indicate that the Town's roads are slightly below average when compared to similar municipalities through out Massachusetts. The data collected was then used to develop a priority list for seeking funding. This process is referred to as a Pavement Management Program. Based on the data accumulated and the evaluation of the Program, the Town will need to invest approximately \$1M per year for five years on roadway improvements to bring the roads to acceptable standards or above average conditions.

There are two potential sources for funding roadway improvements. The first source that is commonly used is use of state funding through an annual allotment of what is known as Chapter 90 funds. The Town's current allotment is around \$600,000 annually. This amount has fluctuated from around a million dollars fifteen years ago to as low as \$200,000 ten years ago but has remained constant recently. The other potential source of funding is by appropriating local funds through a Town Meeting vote. Typically Chapter 90 money is used to

fund improvements on major roads such as Main Street, Salem Street, and Johnson Street, for example. The local funds would be directed to the secondary roads, neighborhood/sub-division roads, unfortunately most Municipalities today rely on just Chapter 90 funds which doesn't provide enough funding to repair these type of roads.

As a result, this past year a five year capital improvement plan was developed using this Pavement Management Program mentioned above. This plan defines priorities for using Chapter 90 state funding on major roads, as well as, priorities for secondary roadway improvements if local funds were available. The plan identifies approximately \$400,000 a year in local funding to be sought at Town Meetings over the next five years to supplement the \$600,000 annual amount from state funding.

The Town Manger, Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Town Meeting voters approved \$360,000 this past year to be used as local funding. This money, which was available on July 1st, along with our Chapter 90 allotment meant that eleven streets were repaved or re-constructed this summer. Additional roads will be done in the spring. It is planned to request approximately \$400,000 in next four Town Meetings and, if approved, will be used to fund roadway improvements on additional local roads under the Pavement Management Plan.

News from the Fire Department

October 3-9 is fire prevention week, this years theme is "SMOKE ALARMS, A SOUND WE CAN LIVE WITH". Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are placed and working properly. The fire service strongly suggests you replace your alarms after 10 years of service. The fire prevention bureau will gladly assist you in selection and placement of devices. REMEMBER SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES. This is also a good time of year to have your heating systems cleaned and maintained. As the price of fuel increases, many people choose alternative sources of heat such as electric space heaters.

These heaters are responsible for many fires, please use extreme caution when using them. Keep all combustible material away from them, and never leave them unattended. They should be used on a level surface and away from children and pets. DO NOT USE un-vented kerosene heaters indoors, as they are illegal in the state of MA. Many fires involving these style heaters result in injuries and deaths. Our public education bureau will be visiting the schools this fall while utilizing the fire safety trailer. For more information visit our web site at the Town of North Andover.

News from the Town Clerk's Office

STATE ELECTION – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2010

The State Election will be held on Tuesday November 2, 2010. The polls will be open one hour earlier – 6:00AM and remain open until 8:00PM. All precincts vote at North Andover High School, 430 Osgood Street. All schools in North Andover will be closed.

The following offices will appear on the ballot:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Representative in Congress, Councilor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, District Attorney and Sheriff. Three ballot questions will appear on the ballot. All voting households will receive a red "Information to Voters" booklet distributed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth explaining the ballot questions. All candidate information and voting forms have links on the Town of North Andover web site at www.townofnorthandover.com.

The last day to register to vote or to change "Party Affiliation" is Wednesday October 13, 2010. The Town Clerk's Office at 120 Main

Street will be open until 8:00PM. This is a "primary" election. If you have moved, are new to North Andover or unsure if you are registered to vote, please call our office at (978)688-9502 and we will be happy to help. You must be eighteen years old by Election Day and a citizen of the United States. You can register to vote in person at 120 Main Street or have a voter registration form mailed to you.

We encourage anyone who may not be able to get to the polls to request an absentee ballot. They can be mailed back, dropped in our box in front of Town Hall, or returned to us at Town Hall by a family member. Applications are good for the entire calendar year and must be filed annually. Family members may fill out the absentee ballot request. Voters can also apply and vote in person at Town Hall 120 Main Street once ballots are received. We anticipate having ballots by October 15, 2010.

Your vote is important to us. Please call us at (978)688-9502 with any questions or concerns or e-mail jbradshaw@townofnorthandover.com.

News from the Police Department

National Night out and New Police Station

National Night out was a great success this past August. Approximately 3,000 people attended our largest event of this type thus far. It was supported by almost 50 large and small businesses from town. We appreciate the support of the business community to come together with the residents and public safety personnel in this unique way. Thanks to all the Crime Watch members and police officers who worked so hard to put this event together.

The Police Department looks forward to moving to new quarters

this fall at 1475 Osgood Street. We long outgrew the Main Street facility that we have occupied for 42 years. We appreciate the efforts of all of those who helped make this possible, particularly the civilian members of the building committee who put in so many volunteer hours on this project. We are confident that this new facility will enhance our operation and help us provide better service to all those who live and work in our community.

Please watch for open house and tour information in the news and on our website.